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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

AT RICHMOND, JULY 28, 1999

APPLICATION OF

EZ TALK COMMUNICATIONS, L.L.C.

CASE NO. PUC980190

For a certificate of public  
convenience and necessity  
to provide local exchange  
telecommunications services

FINAL ORDER

On April 12, 1999, EZ Talk Communications, L.L.C. ("EZ Talk" or "Applicant") completed an application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity ("certificate") requesting authority to provide local exchange telecommunications services throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. Additionally, on April 9, 1999, EZ Talk requested a waiver of certain requirements of the Virginia State Corporation Commission's ("Commission") Rules for Local Exchange Telephone Competition ("Competition Rules"), 20 VAC 5-400-180.

EZ Talk states that it is a non-facilities based reseller that proposes to offer residential customers prepaid, month-to-month local telephone service, which blocks access to toll services, operator services (including collect and third-party calls), and directory assistance. EZ Talk proposes to provide unlimited local calling, access to 911 emergency services and 1-

8xx toll free dialing, without the imposition of credit checks or deposit requirements.

In order to provide this residential, prepaid, month-to-month service, EZ Talk requested waivers of Subsection C 5 and certain provisions of Subsection C 1 of the Competition Rules requiring a new entrant, either directly or through arrangements with others, to provide access to directory assistance (Subsection C 1 d), access to operator services (Subsection C 1 f), equal access to intraLATA long distance carriers (Subsection C 1 e), and equal access to interLATA services (Subsection C 5) to all local exchange customers. The Applicant further requested a waiver of Subsection D 3 of the Competition Rules limiting the proposed rate for local exchange services provided by the new entrant not to exceed the highest of the comparable tariffed services provided by the incumbent local exchange telephone company or companies in the same local serving areas.

By Order dated May 6, 1999, the Commission directed the Applicant to provide notice to the public of its application, directed the Commission Staff to conduct an investigation and file a report, and scheduled a public hearing to receive evidence relevant to EZ Talk's application.

On June 29, 1999, the Staff filed its report, finding that the application is in compliance with the Commission's

certification requirements of the Competition Rules. In addition, the Staff did not object to EZ Talk's request for waivers from specific Competition Rules for its residential, monthly, prepaid local service, subject to the following conditions: (i) the Applicant shall provide audited financial statements to the Staff no later than one year from the effective date of its initial tariff; (ii) EZ Talk shall provide full disclosure to consumers about the services and features EZ Talk will and will not furnish to subscribers of its alternative, prepaid, month-to-month local exchange service. Sales brochures and other marketing and advertising materials must prominently disclose that service is restricted to residential end-users and that customers will have no access to directory assistance, operator services, long distance, collect and third-party calls, or any other pay-for-usage services; (iii) any waivers granted to EZ Talk in this case are limited solely to the residential, prepaid, month-to-month local service described in the Applicant's filing; (iv) any waivers granted to EZ Talk for its residential, prepaid, month-to-month local service should be subject to revocation, alteration, or the imposition of additional conditions such as pricing restrictions in the event the Commission subsequently determines the service is operating improperly or is not in the public interest;

(v) any subsequent increase in the rate for prepaid, month-to-month local service shall be subject to thirty (30) days' notice to the Commission, and notice to customers provided through billing inserts or publication for two (2) consecutive weeks as display advertising in newspapers having general circulation in the areas served by the Applicant; and (vi) if at any time EZ Talk initiates a requirement of customer deposits, any deposits collected by the Applicant shall be retained in an unaffiliated third-party escrow account until such time as the Staff or Commission determines it is no longer necessary.

A hearing was held on July 13, 1999. EZ Talk filed proof of publication and proof of service as required by the May 6, 1999, scheduling order. At the hearing, the application with accompanying exhibits, and the Staff Report were entered into the record without objection, and the Applicant agreed to the recommendations of Staff.

Having considered the application and the Staff Report, the Commission finds that such application, as well as the requested waivers, should be granted. Accordingly,

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

(1) EZ Talk Communications, L.L.C. is hereby granted a certificate of public convenience and necessity, No. T-451, to provide local exchange telecommunications services subject to the restrictions set forth in the Competition Rules, § 56-

265.4:4 of the Code of Virginia, the provisions of this Order, and the conditions set forth in the Staff Report.

(2) EZ Talk shall file tariffs with the Division of Communications that conform with all applicable Commission rules and regulations from which the Company has not been granted a waiver.

(3) This case shall remain open to evaluate EZ Talk's residential, prepaid, month-to-month local exchange service.